

NEWS RELEASE

Colonial

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



Historic Jamestowne

Colonial Parkway

Yorktown Battlefield

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Colonial Parkway Designated All-American Road by U.S. Department of Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, officially designated the Colonial Parkway an All-American Road under the National Scenic Byways Program in ceremonies held on September 22nd at Union Station in Washington, DC. In designating the Parkway an All-American Road, the FHWA recognized that the Colonial Parkway possesses historic and scenic qualities that are nationally significant, that it contains one-of-a-kind features that do not exist elsewhere, and that the Parkway is a “destination unto itself,” providing “an exceptional traveling experience so recognized by travelers that they would make a drive along the highway a primary reason for their trip.”

The National Scenic Byways Program was established as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation in 1991 to recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. Under the program, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as America’s Byways – National Scenic Byway or the more exclusive All-American Road – based on six intrinsic qualities of the road (historic, cultural, natural, scenic, recreational, and archeological). There are currently 125 America’s Byways in 44 states, including 98 National Scenic Byways and 27 All-American Roads.

“The National Park Service actively manages the Colonial Parkway to protect its scenic, historic and cultural qualities and we are extremely pleased that those efforts have been recognized in this manner by the National Scenic Byways Program,” said Skip Brooks, Deputy Superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park. “The designation will also provide an additional means of promoting the Historic Triangle as a travel destination.”

About the Colonial Parkway

A trip down the Colonial Parkway is literally a trip through nearly 200 years of colonial history in America and to some of the most nationally significant historic sites in the country. In 23 miles, the Colonial Parkway connects Jamestown, where English colonial America was born in 1607; with Williamsburg, the former capital of Virginia where the issue of independence was debated by the likes of Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and others; and Yorktown, where American independence was won over the British in the 1781 Siege of Yorktown.

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Beyond the sites it connects, the Colonial Parkway is historic in its own right due to its design and construction as a true American parkway. It illustrates, in a complete and exemplary manner, the typical features of the designed parkway and maintains the integrity of its original design as no other parkway in America has. Nearly 75 years after its construction, the entire route is still traveled without interruption of a single traffic light or stop sign and with a bare minimum of 21st-century visual intrusions.

Prior to the All-American Road designation, the Colonial Parkway has previously been recognized by a listing on the National Register of Historic Places and with a prestigious Centennial Medallion of the American Society of Landscape Architects as “one of the finest parkway archetypes in the country.”

NPS

September 23, 2005